

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 /059 W
----- 039384

R 300808Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 706

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 14889

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJ: PRESS FREEDOM STRUGGLE COMMITTEE DEMONSTRATION EFFORT FIZZLES

FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT ACTION SAIGON NOV 29 FROM DANANG
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE:

DANANG 0658

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJ: PRESS FREEDOM STRUGGLE COMMITTEE DEMONSTRATION EFFORT FIZZLES

1. THE CENTRAL VIET NAM STRUGGLE COMMITTEE FOR FREEDOM OF THE
PRESS ATTEMPTED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO ORGANIZE PROTEST ACTIVITIES IN
DANANG ON NOV 28 TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR THE SAIGON EDITORS WHOSE
TRIAL WAS SCHEDULED FOR
THAT DAY. RUMORS CIRCULATED THE AFTERNOON
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OF NOV 27 THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD ORGANIZE A "NIGHT WITHOUT SLEEP"

AT A LOCAL PAGODA AND FOLLOW THIS EFFORT UP ON THE 28TH WITH A DEMONSTRATION IN DOWNTOWN DANANG. THE "NIGHT WITHOUT SLEEP" WAS CANCELLED WHEN ONLY TEN PEOPLE APPEARED AT THE PAGODA. THE DEMONSTRATION ATTEMPT LIKEWISE FAILED. POLICE WERE OUT IN FORCE AT THE RUMORED DEMONSTRATION SITES, INCLUDING THREE MARKET AREAS AND THE OFFICE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEFUNCT SONG THAN NEWSPAPER. AT NO TIME DID THE EFFORTS OF THE ORGANIZERS ATTRACT MORE THAN 15 TO 20 CASUAL ONLOOKERS. THERE WERE NO CLASHES REPORTED BETWEEN POLICE AND WOULD-BE DEMONSTRATORS. THE SITES OF POSSIBLE GATHERINGS WERE CLEARED AND QUIET BY 11:30 A.M.

2. IN THE MORNING OF NOV 28 ONE JEEP BEARING BANNERS DEMANDING PRESS FREEDOM AND CARRYING APPROXIMATELY TEN SUPPORTERS OF THE PRESS STRUGGLE COMMITTEE VISITED THREE MARKET PLACES IN DANANG AND MADE A BRIEF APPEAL FOR PRESS FREEDOM. THEY ATTRACTED LITTLE, OTHER THAN POLICE, ATTENTION. AT THE SONG THAN OFFICE, THE NEWSPAPER'S DANANG REPRESENTATIVE, LE DUC VAN, SPOKE A FEW SENTENCES WITH THE AID OF A MICROPHONE TO PASSERSBY, WHO WERE KEPT AT A DISTANCE BY POLICE. VAN CALLED ON THE PEOPLE TO SUPPORT THE PRESS FREEDOM STRUGGLE AND URGE THE GVN TO MAKE GENUINE CHANGES IN THE PRESS LAW. THE COMMITTEE DISTRIBUTED A "LETTER OF PROTEST" (COPY BEING POUCHED) WRITTEN BY FORMER SENATOR BUI VAN GIAI, COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN. THE LETTER CLAIMED THAT THE PROSECUTION OF DAI DAN TOC, SONG THAN AND DIEN TIN NEWSPAPERS AND THE "DECEPTIVE AMENDMENT OF DECREE LAW 007" SHOW A "LACK OF GOODWILL" ON THE PART OF THE GVN. THE LETTER PROTESTS THE "OBSTINATE ATTITUDE" OF THE AUTHORITIES AND DEMANDS THE ABOLITION OF THE "UNDEMOCRATIC AND UNCONSTITUTIONAL DECREE LAW 007, AND ITS AMENDMENT" AND REQUESTS THE PROMULGATION OF A "MORE REASONABLE AND PROGRESSIVE LAW" SOON.

3. COMMENT: THE CENTRAL VIET NAM STRUGGLE COMMITTEE FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, AS THIS ABORTED EFFORT DEMONSTRATES, HAS A VERY LIMITED ALMOST NON-EXISTENT, FOLLOWING AT THIS TIME. THERE ARE VERY FEW JOURNALISTS ON THE COMMITTEE, WHICH HAS ATTRACTED AS ITS CHAIRMAN THE POLITICALLY AMBITIOUS CATHOLIC POLITICIAN FORMER SENATOR GIAI AND NGUYEN DINH HOE, THE YOUNG CITY COUNCILOR WHO HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN GENERATING VETERANS' AGITATION AGAINST ADDA HIRING PRACTICES. THE COMMITTEE APPEARS TO HAVE MADE ONLY A TOKEN EFFORT TO ORGANIZE A DEMONSTRATION. THE LEADING AN QUANG MONK IN DANANG, FOR EXAMPLE, TOLD A CONGEN LOCAL EMPLOYEE ON THE 27TH THAT HE HAD NOT

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BEEN APPROACHED ABOUT DEMONSTRATIONS. THE EFFORT DID SERVE TO PUT IN CIRCULATION, ANOTHER PIECE OF PAPER - THE "LETTER OF PROTEST" - WHICH ASSOCIATES SENATOR GIAI WITH A CURRENT POLITICAL ISSUE. END COMMENT. SIGNED FRANCIS
UNQUOTE.
MARTIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, THE PRESS, JOURNALISTS, TRIALS, INFORMATION CONTROL
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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NOV 29 FROM DANANG
TAGS: PINT, VS
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